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PROCESS FOR OPTIMIZING MILK PRODUCTION

5 A process for formulating a ruminant food ration in
determined, a plurality of natural or synthetic feed ~~said~~ ^{the}
ingredients and the nutrient composition of each of ~~said~~
ingredients are identified wherein one of ~~said~~
ingredients is 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid or a
salt, amide or ester thereof, and a ration is formulated
from the identified feed ingredients to meet the
10 determined methionine needs of the ruminant which
comprises one or more grains, a hydroxy analog of
methionine, and optionally a bypass fat wherein (i) the
hydroxy analog of methionine is selected from the group
consisting of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid and
15 the salts, amides and esters thereof, (ii) the hydroxy
analog of methionine is added separately from any bypass
fat which is included in the ration, and (iii) the ration
is formulated on the basis that at least 20% of the
hydroxy analog of methionine is assumed to be available
20 for absorption by the ruminant.

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